

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
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R 240737Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8062
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY RABAT
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMCONSUL CASABLANCA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 1164

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MO, MR, XI, RO
SUBJ: POSSIBLE ROMANIAN ROLE IN SAHARAN DISPUTE

REFS: (A) BUCHAREST 379 (NOTAL); (B) NOUAKCHOTT 208 (NOTAL);
(C) RABAT 383 (NOTAL); (D) NOUAKCHOTT 361

1. MOROCCAN DCM (PRIMARY SOURCE REF A) TOLD EMBOFF 19 FEBRUARY THAT, AFTER ALL, SUDDEN TRIP OF MARCEL DINU, CHIEF DIRECTORATE II (DEVELOPING COUNTRIES) ROMANIAN MFA, TO NOUAKCHOTT HAD NOT BEEN RELATED TO POSSIBLE ROMANIAN ROLE IN SAHARAN DISPUTE. VISIT HAD BEEN CAUSED BY MAURITANIAN SEIZURE OF ROMANIAN FISHING VESSELS IN NEW FISHING AREA.

2. SOURCING HIS INFORMATION TO MEMBERS OF RECENT MOROCCAN DELEGATION TO BUCHAREST LED BY SECRETARY OF STATE BADDOU, HE SAID THAT DINU HAD SPENT MOROCCAN LAYOVER WITH ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR AND HAD NOT HAD ANY DISCUSSIONS WITH MOROCCAN
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MFA OFFICIALS. WE NOTE AS AN ASIDE THAT HE KNEW DINU'S EXACT WHEREABOUTS DURING HIS 24 HOUR STAY IN MOROCCO IMPLYING GOM INTEREST IN HIS ACTIVITIES WHILE THERE.

3. RE BADDOU'S VISIT, HE SAID THAT IT HAD TAKEN PLACE AT ROMANIAN INITIATIVE AND HAD DEALT PRIMARILY WITH ECONOMIC TOPICS. BIGGEST PROBLEM IS THAT TWO WAY TRADE IS MUCH LESS

THAN WHAT IT WAS TWO OR THREE YEARS AGO AND THAT ROMANIA
HAD DIVERTED PART OF ITS PHOSPHATE PURCHASES TO OTHER
COUNTRIES INCLUDING ISRAEL.

4. COMMENT: MOROCCAN DCM SEEMED INTENT ON QUIETING RUMORS
OF POSSIBLE ROMANIAN ROLE RATHER THAN ON SHARING INFORMATION.
THAT DINU ACTUALLY DISCUSSED THE FISHING VESSEL PROBLEM IS
UNDOUBTEDLY TRUE. THAT MOROCCAN DCM'S ORIGINAL IDEA (THAT
DINU WAS GOING TO ASSESS SAHARAN PROBLEM FIRST HAND) MAY
ALSO HAVE BEEN TRUE. IN ANY CASE, IT NOW APPEARS AS IF EITHER
DINU CAME BACK WITH NEGATIVE FINDINGS OR THAT GOR WAS NOT
INTENDING TO INVOLVE ITSELF IN THE FIRST PLACE.
AGGREY

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Message Attributes

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